



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

General Jones is the only man of prominence, so far as we know, who lived at Sinsinawa. However, he had as visitors most of the prominent men of the territory. In his autobiography, published in Parish's book, he tells of visits from Henry Dodge, the Gratiots, Jefferson Davis, and others.

## OLD TRAILS AROUND EAU CLAIRE

As chairman of the National Old Trails Roads of the Eau Claire chapter of the D. A. R. I have been advised by the state chairman to ask you for help in securing information in regard to old trails in Eau Claire County or vicinity. We are in our infancy as a chapter, having been organized only a little over a year, and while we are most anxious to do our part we are sadly in need of guidance by those of greater experience.

If you can give me any information in regard to the old trails or advise me as to where I may secure such aid, I shall be very grateful.

IDA LINTON HAINER  
*Eau Claire*

We are glad to make such suggestions as we can concerning the early trails. The exact locating of these trails is, however, such a local matter that we can only give general directions to be worked out by recourse to old settlers and local authorities.

The valley of the Chippewa is, historically considered, one of the most interesting and one of the oldest locations in Wisconsin history. The lower part was the scene during one hundred years of the great contest between the Chippewa and Sioux tribes wherein the former gradually pushed the latter back to the Mississippi. If you can secure *Minnesota Historical Collections*, V, you can read about it in the account of the Chippewa historian, William Warren. His sisters are still living near White Earth, Minnesota, and perhaps you could obtain information from them. Address Theodore H. Beaulieu, and ask him if Mrs. English or her sisters can give you any information.

The first English traveler in Wisconsin, Captain Jonathan Carver, ascended the Chippewa in 1766. He says that about thirty miles from its mouth the river branches and that between the two branches ran the great Road of War between the Chippewa and the Sioux. The boundary between the two peoples was settled at the Prairie du Chien treaty of 1825. It began half a day's march below the falls, thence to the St. Croix. It would be interesting for you to locate that boundary. The half a day's march below the falls is said

to have been at the mouth of Mud Creek near Rumsey's Landing. There was an overland trail from Lake Pepin to Menomonie and probably on to the Chippewa, used by the early lumbermen; probably Mr. Henry E. Knapp of Menomonie could give you information about that. The first mail route was opened in 1850. Some of your old settlers might be able to trace that out for you.

Mrs. Hainer of this city has shown me your letter in which you state your belief that the point on the Chippewa River established by treaty as dividing the lands of the Sioux or Dakota Indians from that of the Chippewa was at Rumsey's Landing at the mouth of Mud Creek.

We in Eau Claire have always believed that it was the rocky bluff in our city near the Normal School and at the mouth of Little Niagara Creek. This answers the description of being "half a day's march below the falls of the Chippewa River"—about 12 miles by the trail. I also feel sure that in some old work I have read that this point was "one mile below the mouth of the Eau Claire River." A "day's march" was supposed to be from 20 to 25 miles, carrying packs of moderate weight as the Indians did on all ordinary journeys. Mud Creek would, I think, be too far to answer the description as being "half a day's march."

I have taken some interest in such matters—such as the origin of the name Eau Galle—or Ogalla—spelled in several different ways. I saw a very old document written at that place which to my mind throws some light on this name and its origin.

ROBERT K. BOYD  
*Eau Claire*

The statement made in our letter to Mrs. Hainer concerning the location of the Chippewa-Sioux treaty boundary was based on printed sources. In 1875 T. E. Randall of your city published a series of articles on the history of the Chippewa Valley in the *Free Press*. These were collected into a volume and his statements form the basis of later local histories, such as *History of Northern Wisconsin* (Chicago, 1881), "Eau Claire County," 295; *History of the Chippewa Valley* (Chicago, 1891-92), 38.

Your letter affords just the kind of reaction it is desirable to invoke. We at Madison cannot decide on points of local history and topography. We are desirous of having local interest aroused in these matters. Perhaps you can find some early settler of Eau Claire who can corroborate either your point of view or that of Mr. Randall. Kindly keep the Society informed if you are able to obtain more information on this matter. We shall also be pleased to have any information you can give us on the origin of the word "Eau Galle."

I think Mr. Randall is mistaken in fixing the dividing point between the lands of the Sioux Indians and the Chippewa "at or near the mouth of Mud Creek near Rumsey's Landing." The treaty describes it as being "half a day's march below the Falls of the Chippewa River." I came on the river in 1868 and to Eau Claire in 1871, and the traditions at that time were that the dividing place was the rocky bluff at the mouth of Little Niagara Creek which is, in fact, half a day's march, 12 to 13 miles, below Chippewa Falls. A day's march of ordinary travel, carrying packs of moderate weight and on a trail, was from 20 to 25 miles.

This view is supported by the language of the much-talked-of Carver's deed, which in giving one distance says, "going east five days' march counting 20 English miles a day." From Chippewa Falls to Rumsey's Landing is certainly a full day's march, as I know from experience, having walked the distance on several occasions. Chippewa Falls was often visited by Indians in the sixties and early seventies but none ever came to Eau Claire; it was often said that they did not consider it safe—that they were still a little afraid of the Sioux, who had a village at that time on the Mississippi near Wabashaw.

An incident under my own observation will illustrate this point. In 1870 while going down river on a raft of lumber we approached Little Niagara Bluff. In the crew were several of mixed blood; one of these, Simon Chevalier was nearly a full-blood Chippewa and an odd character. As we approached this bluff one of the half breeds called out in a mixture of English, French, and Chippewa, "Hello Simon, prenez gar ah Bwahnuk": "Look out for the Sioux" ("Bwahn," Sioux—"uk" plural).

I also remember reading in some old work, which I cannot now identify, that this dividing point was "one mile below the mouth of the Eau Claire River," and if this is true history, it would seem that our traditions must be correct.

Mr. Randall speaks of Carson and Rand and of Capt. George C. Wales who built a mill on the Eau Galle River. There have been many conjectures as to the origin and meaning of the name Eau Galle, which has been spelled in almost all possible ways.

Through the courtesy of Mr. C. W. Lockwood, whose wife is a daughter of the late William Carson, I have been furnished with a copy of a lumber contract, dated June 10, 1844, made by George C. Wales, Henry Eaton, and William Carson, who sold a season's cut of lumber to Benjamin W. Brunson. This contract, I think, gives a clue to the origin of the name, which is spelled "Augalett" and also "Augallett." If this was intended for Au Galet (pronounced *o galay*) the meaning of the word seems plain. The word "galet" is defined as meaning what is known in Scotland as shingle, a bed or ridge of coarse gravel or pebbles, usually on the seashore. Many of our rivers were named by the French voyageurs from Prairie du Chien, and so our Eau Claire River was called "La Riviere de l'Eau Claire." There is a heavy gravel bar at the mouth of the Eau Galle River, and it seems natural that they should name the stream "La Riviere au Galet," the River at the Gravel Bank. Mr. Lockwood has submitted this hypothesis to the present William Carson, and he believes it to be the correct view.

ROBERT K. BOYD

*Eau Claire*